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Witness Spent Career in Intelligence

By GLENN FOWLER

George W. Allen, who testified for CBS yesterday in the libel suit brought by Gen. William C. Westmoreland, is a 58-year-old retired Government official who spent his professional life in intelligence.

He retired in 1979, but still works under contract with the Central Intelligence Agency.

By the time of the 1967-68 controversy over North Vietnamese troop figures, Mr. Allen had spent more than 15 years studying the conflict in the area.

He joined Army intelligence as a

civilian employee in 1949, shortly after graduating from the University of Utah with a degree in political science. A year later he was assigned to work as a military intelligence research analyst on Indochina. For the next decade his principal duties involved obtaining current intelligence on Vietnam and the Far East.

In 1963 he moved to the C.I.A. as a senior analyst in the Office of Current Intelligence, dealing with the Far East. The next year he went to Vietnam and was asked to stay on as a senior intelligence ad-

viser. When the American Embassy in Saigon was bombed in 1965 Mr. Allen was wounded. He remained in Vietnam until 1966, when he returned to C.I.A. headquarters in Langley, Va., as deputy special assistant to the director, Richard M. Helms, for Vietnam affairs.

Born into an Army family at Fort Banks, Mass., he was raised on Army posts and served for three years in Navy amphibious forces in the Pacific during World War II. He is married, has four daughters and lives in Williamsburg, Va.